

DEVELOPMENT SECRETARIAT.

Administration Report of the Revenue Department for the year 1930-31.

READ—

The Report on the administration of the Revenue Department for the year 1930-31, received with letter No.-C. Per. A. 15—30-31, dated the 2nd November 1931, from the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore.

ORDER No. R. 4918-77—L. R. 389-31-2, DATED BANGALORE, THE 16—20TH
APRIL 1932.

Rajakaryapravina Mr. P. G. D'Souza, B.A., B.L., continued as Revenue Commissioner till the 31st August 1930, when he was elevated to the Council as Third Member and was succeeded by Mr. S. P. Rajagopalachari, who held the office during the rest of the year except for three weeks when he was on privilege leave.

Consequent on the retirement of Mohn-ul-Vizarath Mr. A. K. Syed Taj Peeran from service from the 14th April 1931, and in the interests of public service, there were transfers of Deputy Commissioners in all the Districts except Kolar.

2. *Changes in Sub-Division and Taluk Charges.*—With a view to ensure administrative efficiency and secure public convenience, a few changes were made in Sub-Division and Taluk charges, and redistribution of villages among certain Hoblis in the Tumkur, Chitaldrug and Bangalore Districts was ordered. Kunigal Taluk was added as a temporary measure to the Gubbi Sub-Division. The Sub-Division at Mandya was ordered to be continued for a further period of two years and a new Taluk was formed at Maddur from May 1931, in connection with the development of irrigation under the Irwin Canal area.

Government note that the work in the Mysore District has increased considerably in consequence of the problems connected with the Irwin Canal and await the proposals of the Revenue Commissioner as to the nature of the relief to be given to the Deputy Commissioner.

Consequent on the abolition of the posts of Economic Superintendents, the Sub-Division Officers were entrusted with economic development work in the Districts.

3. *Rainfall and Seasonal Conditions.*—The rainfall during the year having been on the whole adequate and well distributed, the seasonal conditions were favourable in all the Districts, except in parts of Tumkur, Mysore, Hassan and Chitaldrug. Though the *munger* rains set in somewhat late in some of the Districts, the *hinger* rains were copious and well distributed. Many tanks in the State received a good supply of water and such of the tracts as suffered by want of supply of water to tanks were granted the usual remission of half wet and garden assessment amounting to Rs. 17,849. As the seasonal conditions were generally favourable and the yield of food crops was satisfactory, there was no distress in any part of the State. Markets were well supplied and no scarcity of fodder and food grains was felt.

Both skilled and unskilled labour found adequate employment. An abnormally low level of prices prevailed during the year under report with the result that agriculturists and traders found it hard to realise sufficient money in cash and it was with great difficulty that the agriculturists could meet their monetary obligations. The growers of commercial crops like ground-nut, cotton, coffee, areca, cardamon and potato were also hard hit for lack of sufficient market for these commodities. The material prosperity of the raiyats in Mysore and Chitaldrug Districts was also somewhat affected by the loss of cattle from rinderpest, black quarter and other cattle diseases.

4. *Accidental Fires.*—The number of accidental fires during the year was 517 as against 609 in the previous year. The number of human lives lost was 20 and the value of property and cattle destroyed was Rs. 2,09,720 as against Rs. 4,34,106 in the previous year. As usual, Shimoga District suffered most, the number of accidents being 143 and the value of property lost being Rs. 1,17,236. Necessary relief was given to the sufferers in the shape of free grant of building materials and grant of Takavi loans, and local people also rendered prompt and generous help to alleviate the sufferings of the persons affected. It is gratifying to note that the scheme of granting advances for building tiled houses is increasing in popularity and a sum of Rs. 10,610 was disbursed, the largest number of applications relating to the Shimoga District.

5. *Cultivation.*—An extent of 26,904 acres with an assessment of Rs. 33,881 was taken up during the year as against 35,334 acres with an assessment of Rs. 43,379 in the previous year while an extent of 27,393 acres with an assessment of Rs. 41,143 was relinquished as against 15,662 acres with an assessment of Rs. 25,805 in the previous year. There was thus a net decrease of 489 acres involving an assessment of Rs. 7,262 in the extent of assessed lands under occupation. The area relinquished during the year showed an increase of 11,731 acres over the corresponding figure of the previous year.

Out of a total extent of 53,331 acres of Amrut Mahal Kavals available for cultivation, only 477 acres with an assessment of Rs. 333-5-0 were disposed of during the year. The reasons for the comparatively small extent disposed of should have been examined and explained, information being furnished as to the number of applications received and the total area applied for. This may be done in future years. It is noted that extensive areas were given out for grazing purposes and proposals in regard to the encouragement to be given for tobacco cultivation and fuel plantations in portions of these surrendered kavals are awaited.

The extent disposed of out of the lands removed from the date reserve list is also small. Out of an area of 2,63,404 acres removed from the reserve list, only 1774 acres with an assessment of Rs. 1,596 were disposed of. In this case also, information should have been furnished as to the number of applications with the area involved. Government agree that the mere surrender of lands is no criterion of their fitness for profitable cultivation, and that early measures are necessary to classify the lands into culturable and non-culturable, so that energetic action may be taken to develop in a suitable manner both classes of lands in the interests of the agricultural population.

It is satisfactory to note that out of the disafforested areas in the Royalpad State Forest, an extent of 176 acres has been made available for a colony of Adikarnatakas of whom 61 have constructed houses and 31 have taken up lands to an extent of 101 acres.

Though there was a fall of 4985 acres in the total area under occupation, the total area cropped rose by 27,235 acres and the percentage of fallow to the area under occupation increased slightly from 18'74 to 19'09 in the year under report. The decrease of lands under occupation was very high in Chikmagalur and Pavagada Taluks being 13,452 and 2073 acres, respectively, and the decrease under "cropped area" was very high in Chintamani, Channagiri and Chikmagalur Taluks, being 14,797, 10,040 and 20,680 acres respectively. These large variations should have been examined in detail and reasons assigned for their occurrence. The Revenue Commissioner is requested to issue necessary instructions in this connection. It is also necessary to ascertain the causes for the continuous high percentage of the fallow area in the Taluks of Chikballapur, Pavagada, Manjarabad and Sorab.

6. *Darakhasts.*—The total number of darakhasts that came up for disposal during the year was 23,961, including 7,529 pending at the beginning of the year, as against 27,175 in the previous year. Out of these 17,735 were disposed of—8,902 by grant and 8,833 by rejection—leaving a balance of 6,226 at the end of the year. The percentage of disposal rose slightly from 72'29 in the previous year to 74'01 in the year under report. There was a fall in the percentage of disposals in all Districts except Kolar, Tumkur and Shimoga. The fall in the receipt of darakhast is attributed to trade depression and lack of ready money with the raiyats. That this is so, is evidenced by the fact that during the year under report only an extent of 46,762 acres,

bearing an assessment of Rs. 94,255 was disposed of as against 79,673 acres in the previous year, the realisation from the sale of lands and malki being considerably less than in previous years. The rejections were generally based on grounds such as that the lands applied were reserved for communal purposes or for other special reasons. The abolition of the classification of lands into "A and B lists" has since been sanctioned.

The rules regarding grant of lands for planting timber, fruit and fuel trees were liberalised during the year under report. With a view to the better utilisation of gomal lands for the production of fodder crops, Government sanctioned, on the recommendation of the Agricultural Committee, as an experimental measure, a scheme under which in villages where gomal land is in excess of the requirements of the village cattle, it may be given subject to certain conditions for the purpose of growing fodder crops.

7. *Grant of lands to Depressed Classes.*—Two thousand nine hundred and thirty applications were received during the year in addition to 1643 applications pending at the beginning of the year, making a total of 4573. Out of these 3260 were disposed of, leaving a balance of 1313 at the close of the year. The total area granted was 9833 acres as against 10,708 acres in the previous year.

The area disposed of under this head in the Kadur District was the smallest and this is reported to be due to the fact that the depressed classes find labour on the estates more remunerative than cultivation.

Government note that no progress was recorded in regard to sisal hemp and gram cultivation and that little interest was shown in the matter of taking up lands on *eksal* tenure. Kumri cultivation supported 305 Kunbi families in the malnad parts of the Shimoga District. Tea and cashewnut made no progress during the year.

Under grant of lands to Military applicants, 212 cases were disposed of, 79 by grant and the rest by rejection. The heavy rejections indicate, as observed by the Revenue Commissioner, the need for greater care on the part of the applicants to select lands in unobjectionable areas. It may be useful if a set of suitable instructions is issued in this connection for the guidance of the applicants.

8. *Avenue Trees and Topes.*—Eighty-one thousand four hundred and thirty-three trees were newly planted during the year as against 82,328 in the previous year and of them 5083 were planted on the occasion of the Birthday of His Highness the Maharaja. The action taken in regard to the transfer of funds for excavating pits from the Public Works Department to the Revenue Department should have been mentioned. It is reported that the condition of avenue trees was generally satisfactory.

9. *Jamabandy, Demand, Collection and Balance.*—The Jamabandy was completed before the end of February in all the Districts except in one Taluk of Hassan District and three Taluks of Shimoga District. The Deputy Commissioners conducted the Jamabandy of 22 Taluks while the Sub-Division Officers or District Treasury Officers conducted the Jamabandy of the remaining Taluks. It is gratifying to note that Jamabandy Officers took advantage of the opportunity to get into close touch with the people and redress their grievances then and there.

The total demand for the year under Land Revenue including miscellaneous and arrears at the beginning of the year was Rs. 1,41,34,797 as against Rs. 1,43,88,540 in the previous year. There was a decrease both under land revenue proper and Land Revenue miscellaneous by Rs. 53,227 and Rs. 346,783, respectively. The decrease under Land Revenue proper is specially noticeable in the Mysore, Shimoga and Chitaldrug Districts. The fall in the Mysore District is explained as due to the loss of assessment on the lands acquired for the Irwin Canal and Krishnarajasagara Works and to the resumption of lands for arrears of land revenue. In the Shimoga District the decrease is reported to be due to large relinquishments and to resumption of lands for arrears of land revenue, while in the Chitaldrug District, it is attributed to the reduction of water-rate on lands under Vani Vilas Sagara from Rs. 5-8-0 to Rs. 4 per acre and also to large extents of land having been resumed to Government in revenue arrear sales. The decrease under land revenue miscellaneous is noticeable in all the Districts, and is reported to be mainly due to lower realisations under malki and amarayi. The whole of the current demand was collected only in Harihar Sub-Taluk and over 95 per cent was collected in the Bowringpet, Jagalur, Davangere,

Nelamangala, Holalkere and Goribidnur Taluks. The total amount collected during the year including arrears was Rs. 1,15,69,887 as against Rs. 1,31,13,332 in the previous year. The balance at the end of the year was Rs. 25,64,910 as against Rs. 11,49,749 in the beginning of the year. The percentage of total collections to the total demand for the year was only 89 as against 92 in the previous year. This was due to the fall in the prices of food stuffs and the general economic depression that prevailed in the State during the year in common with the rest of the world. These abnormal conditions necessitated the grant of the following concessions:—

- (a) Grant of time in deserving cases till the end of the year to pay the land revenue demand.
- (b) Leniency in the adoption of coercive processes for the recovery of land revenue.
- (c) Collection during the year of only 50 per cent of the demand under Record of Rights fees in taluks where the scheme was introduced in previous years and grant of time till the current year for payment of the balance; postponement till the current year of the collection of fees in taluks where the scheme was introduced during the year under report.
- (d) Recovery in three annual instalments of charges for the supply of water in the hot weather in T.-Narsipur Taluk.
- (e) Liberal use of the powers of Revenue Officers in the matter of the waiving of process fees and interest on arrears. Remissions granted during the year amounted to Rs. 1,14,957.

10. *Coercive Processes.*—There was an increase in the total number of coercive processes issued from 148,969 in the previous year to 242,673 during the year. The amount recovered without the issue of any process was 79.60 of the collections, as against 84.50 in the previous year. 20.40 per cent of the collection was recovered by issue of coercive processes, while 74.15 per cent of the total recoveries under this head was secured by merely issuing notices of demand. Sales were held in 39,027 cases, fetching a sum of Rs. 566,782 as against Rs. 11,546 cases realising Rs. 402,007 in the previous year. The total extent of land sold for arrears of revenue during the year was 250,208 acres with an assessment of Rs. 505,341 as against 59,267 acres with an assessment of Rs. 158,625 in the previous year.

11. *Execution of Co-operative Society Decrees.*—The total number of decrees for disposal during the year was 3698 of the aggregate value of Rs. 6,35,394. Out of them, 1844 decrees involving Rs. 3,13,674 were disposed of during the year, leaving a balance of 1854 decrees of the value of Rs. 3,21,720 pending execution at the end of the year as against 1704 decrees involving Rs. 2,92,914 in the previous year. The number of decrees disposed of has fallen short as also the decretal amount realised. In spite of the observations made by Government in the last year's review, the arrears have increased. While Government are aware of the difficult conditions of the year which operated against progress, they consider that there is scope for the officers of both the Revenue and Co-operative Departments to bestow greater attention to the execution of these decrees with a view to secure appreciably better results.

12. *Loans and Advances.*—A sum of Rs. 2,46,600 was allotted to the several Districts and loans amounting to Rs. 2,17,487-8-0 were disbursed during the year. There were 2153 applications for Takavi Loans of an aggregate sum of Rs. 3,81,408 as against 2827 applications involving an amount of Rs. 4,67,766 in the previous year. The percentage of collection to the demand was 42.13 as against 46.28 in the previous year. There were 1608 applications for Land Improvement Loans involving an amount of Rs. 7,10,754 during the year as against 1538 applications for Rs. 6,67,574 in the previous year. The percentage of collection to the demand is 49.84 as against 50.81 in the previous year. In spite of instructions issued by the Revenue Commissioner in the matter, there has been no improvement in the collection of these loans. Government observe that this is due in a large measure to lack of proper scrutiny over the loan registers by the local officers and that it is necessary that they should realise their responsibility in this connection and take vigorous measures to see that the loan obligations are carried out properly.

13. *Takrar Cases.*—Out of 25,609 cases brought up for orders during the year, 16,940 cases were disposed of leaving a balance of 8669 as against 8239 in the previous year. The percentage of disposal rose from 61.14 per cent in the previous year to 66.14 per cent in the year under report. Though there has been some slight improvement in this direction as compared with the figures of the previous year, the disposals are by no means satisfactory, particularly in the Districts of Hassan and

Mysore. The Revenue Commissioner is requested to take suitable notice of slackness on the part of such of the Amildars whose work in this connection is very unsatisfactory and who have no adequate explanation to offer.

14. *Record of Rights*.—The Record of Rights Scheme was introduced during the year into 11 taluks as noted in the margin. This brings the total number of taluks and sub-taluks into which the Scheme has been introduced so far to 26. The fee demand for all these taluks excepting Shikarpur, where the demand was not fixed before the close of the year, aggregated Rs. 17,98,351. A sum of Rs. 71,153 was collected during the year and the total collections from the commencement aggregated Rs. 4,30,754, thus leaving a balance of Rs. 13,67,597 at the close of the year. The arrears are thus seen to be very heavy. It is reported that the poor collections during the year were due to unfavourable economic conditions which necessitated the grant of certain concessions to raiyats by way of postponement of 50 per cent of the demand till 1931-32 in the taluks where the scheme was introduced prior to 1930-31 and of the full demand till the ensuing year in the taluks where the scheme was introduced during the year under report. This explanation however does not account fully for the existence of the very heavy arrears. Government regret to observe that necessary and prompt measures have not been adopted even in respect of the arrears falling beyond the limits of the concessions sanctioned. Government desire to impress on the officers concerned the need for vigorous measures for the collection of these fees as the extension of the scheme will be impossible if the charges are not promptly recovered. The total expenditure incurred in the Revenue and Survey Departments in connection with the Record of Rights Scheme up to the end of June 1931 is Rs. 4,26,935. Hissa Survey operations were completed in 7 taluks and it is noted that vigorous measures are being taken to push on with the survey work in the other taluks.

15. *Special Schemes*.—(a) *Village Panchayets*.—The number of Village Panchayets increased from 9,125 at the commencement of the year to 10,301 at the close of the year. Almost all the panchayets levied obligatory taxes and the number of village panchayets that levied optional taxes under Section 37 of the Regulation increased considerably. Out of a total demand of Rs. 32,14,150 including arrears in respect of all the panchayets, a sum of Rs. 8,70,054 including remissions was collected, leaving a balance of Rs. 23,44,096 at the end of the year. The arrears have been accumulating from year to year and have assumed proportions which render early recovery difficult. It is necessary that the whole matter should be examined carefully and clear instructions issued in regard to the action to be taken as regards arrears to be written off and fixing the balance to be recovered. The Sub-Division Officers should regard this as one of the important items of their work. The Revenue Commissioner is requested to issue needful instructions in the matter and report to Government the progress achieved from time to time. Government note that the system of weekly labour was continued in many Village Panchayets. The question of placing this system on a statutory basis is under consideration. A sum of Rs. 1,03,443 was spent on rural improvements while Rs. 66,613 and Rs. 94,707 were spent for sinking water wells and tube wells respectively. The total amount at the credit of all the Panchayets in the State was over 30 lakhs of rupees and Government trust that the instructions issued by the Revenue Commissioner for the utilisation of these funds on works of permanent benefit to the villagers will be carried out. Notwithstanding the drawbacks noticed, it is gratifying to note that the scheme as a whole is making satisfactory progress and holds out promise of a bright future. The activities of some of the important panchayets were widened by entrusting to them the supervision and management of village schools, forests, tanks and topes and the planting of avenue and fruit trees. Some of the panchayets successfully undertook the eradication of lantana and prickly pear, and electrification schemes in a few of them for lighting and irrigation purposes received attention. Propaganda work also received due attention and the Panchayet Court organised during the Dasara Exhibition proved attractive and instructive.

(b) *Village Forests*.—Including the 20 new village forests sanctioned in the Kolar District and excluding the two forests abolished in the Chitaldrug District, there were 234 Village Forests with an aggregate area of 60,170 acres at the end of the year as against 216 with an aggregate area of 58,197 acres in the previous year.

Though the number of these forest panchayets has shown an increase, it cannot be said that the scheme as a whole has yielded satisfactory results. Efficient panchayets are rather an exception, the majority of them being in a more or less moribund condition. The main impediments are reported to be lack of funds for carrying out improvement works and lack of co-operative spirit. Of the panchayets that have been doing good work, special mention requires to be made of the Gendekatte Village Forest Panchayet in the Hassan Taluk. Government note that 1,200 plants were planted in the forest during the year, that the panchayet constructed a forest lodge at a cost of Rs. 1,910, and that there was a closing balance of Rs. 3,183 to its credit. It is reported that the management of 36 Village Forests in Kolar, 3 in Hassan and 6 in Kadur has been transferred to the Village Panchayets concerned and that action is being taken for similar transfer of management in other cases. This is a movement in the right direction.

(c) *Tank Panchayets.*—Out of 127 panchayets that had been sanctioned up to the beginning of the year, one was abolished in the year. Out of 126 panchayets it is reported that only 22 evinced some interest and the rest remained more or less inactive. The lethargy and inefficiency of the panchayets is attributed to lack of enthusiasm and co-operation among the Committee Members. Government consider that it is no use continuing panchayets which cannot work and there is no use in forcing the scheme on indifferent villages. Steps should therefore be taken to concentrate efforts on successful panchayets and in centres where a large measure of local support is forthcoming. Government agree with the Revenue Commissioner that it is necessary to reduce the multiplicity of village organisations and concentrate activities affecting the village community in a single organisation, viz., the Village Panchayet.

(d) *Irrigation under the Vani Vilas Sagara.*—There was an extent of 6,809 acres under occupation at the beginning of the year and it decreased by 329 acres at the end of the year. The area cropped was 6,161 during Karthika and 3,053 acres during Vaisakhi as against a total extent of 12,059 acres in the previous year. The fall was due to shrinkage of paddy cultivation in the area due to want of sufficient supply of water, lack of manure and paucity of labour and capital. Though the hingar rains brought in a fairly good supply of water to the reservoir, it was not sufficient to ensure a continuous supply of water. Sub-division of such portions of the tank bed as do not normally come under submission was completed during the year and action was taken to dispose of these lands for temporary cultivation. The results of this arrangement will be watched with interest.

(e) *Development of cultivation under the Bhadra Right Bank Channel.*—The excavation of the Channel was completed to its full length of 40 miles during the year.

Out of the extent of 184 acres and 22 guntas available for disposal, 29 acres and 9 guntas were disposed of for cultivation during the year.

The total extent of land brought under wet cultivation exclusive of 379 acres granted to the Bhadra Agricultural Colony was 7,900 acres as against 5,189 acres in the previous year, and the assessment rose from Rs. 25,243 to Rs. 29,081. The total amount of contribution recovered up to 1st July 1931 was Rs. 33,016 while the amount realised by the sale of land was Rs. 50,901.

The hot weather supply of water for sugar-cane was given to the entire length of the channel during the year. It is reported that the supply can be guaranteed only up to the 18th mile and that no such supply can be made below the 18th mile if the extent under sugar-cane is over 1,000 acres above that limit. This contingency is remote and it is expected that the supply will be available for the whole length for a considerable period. It is noted that the development of the agricultural colony is also making steady progress.

16. *Conferences.*—On account of the prevailing economic depression and financial stringency, Government directed that the holding of the District and Taluk Conferences need not be insisted upon and that the holding of the same be left to the discretion of the local bodies concerned. Consequently only one District Conference was held at Chikmagalur during the year. Village Panchayet, Agricultural, Educational and Co-operative Conferences were also organised as adjuncts to the General Conference. Taluk Conferences were organised in all the Taluks of the Kolar, Kadur and Chitaldrug Districts. Conferences were not held in any of the Taluks of the

Shimoga and Tumkur Districts. In the other three Districts of Bangalore, Mysore and Hassan, conferences were held in some of the taluks only. The prevalence of plague and cholera prevented the holding of conference in a few taluks, but in the majority of cases, conferences could not be held owing to the prevailing economic depression. In the conferences that were held, the major and minor wants of the taluks were discussed along with subjects of current interest relating to rural reconstruction, education, agriculture and co-operation.

17. One hundred and fifty-one major and 636 minor tanks were restored and repaired during the year at a cost of Rs. 2,59,742 and Rs. 3,35,514 respectively. Earth-work of the value of Rs. 49,021 in respect of major tanks and Rs. 64,047 in respect of minor tanks was done by the raiyats during the year. It is satisfactory to note that the inspection of tanks is being carried out in accordance with the instructions issued by Government. The Deputy Commissioners also inspected a fair number of tanks, the Deputy Commissioner of Tumkur having inspected as many as 126 tanks. The Sub-Division Officers of Shimoga and Sagar inspected the largest number of tanks, the number being 142 and 154, respectively. The Revenue Commissioner observes that it is nearly six years since the present policy of restoration of major and minor tanks was adopted and although a good deal of work has been carried out, the commitments in respect of works already under execution extend to several lakhs of rupees and he considers that the whole position requires early examination for formulating a fresh policy for the next quinquennium, with reference to the resources available and the willingness of the people to provide substantial contributions. Government await definite proposals from the Revenue Commissioner in this connection.

18. *Provincial Toll-Gates.*—The number of provincial toll-gates remained the same as in the previous year, viz., 45. The gate at Bukkasagara was reshifted to Sakrepatna in the Kadur Taluk during the year. The right to collect tolls realised a sum of Rs. 1,82,502 during the year as against Rs. 1,58,776 in the last year. The levy of tolls on bicycles was abolished from 1st July 1931 and the toll-gate at Bisle on the Sukravarasanthe-Subrahmanya Road in the Manjarabad Taluk which was being managed by the Hassan District Board was ordered to be treated as a provincial one from 1931-32. With a view to ensure competition in securing bids for the right to collect tolls, it is reported a new procedure was adopted under which a consolidated programme for the whole State was drawn up by the Revenue Commissioner, enabling bidders to take part in all the sales. The proposals of the Committee relating to the abolition of all tolls and all local taxes on motor vehicles are under the consideration of Government.

19. *Inspections.*—During the year under report Rajakaryapravina Mr. P. G. D'Souza toured for 29 days and Mr. S. P. Rajagopalachari toured for 102 days. The Revenue Commissioner inspected 6 Districts, 2 Sub-Division and 20 Taluk Offices and 84 villages including interior villages, some important tanks and ancient monuments. A fair number of the major Muzrai Institutions were also inspected by the Revenue Commissioner during the year. Inspections and touring by Deputy Commissioners were on the whole well arranged and satisfactory and all of them toured for more than the required number of days. The Deputy Commissioner, Kolar, toured the largest number of days and inspected a fair number of villages. The Deputy Commissioner, Tumkur, inspected the largest number of villages, viz., 1072 while the inspection of villages by the Deputy Commissioner, Shimoga, was inadequate. The touring of five Sub-Division Officers is reported to have fallen below the prescribed minimum, viz., 200 days in the maidan and 180 days in the malnad area. Short itineration in the case of three of these has been explained while no explanation has been furnished for the deficient touring by the Sub-Division Officers of Nanjangud and Mandya. The Revenue Commissioner is requested to obtain their explanations and submit them for orders of Government with his recommendations. It is however noted that there has been a steady improvement in the itineration of the Sub-Division Officers and in the number of villages inspected with special reference to interior ones.

20. *Miscellaneous.*—(a) The Revenue Commissioner disposed of 239 appeals while Government dealt with 175 appeals and revision applications during the year.

(b) The inaugural session of the Amildars' Association was held in Bangalore in August 1930 under the Presidentship of Rajakaryapravina Mr. P. G. D'Souza,

the then Revenue Commissioner. Amin-ul-Mulk Sir Mirza Mahomed Ismail, Kt., B.A., C.I.E., O.B.E., Dewan of Mysore, opened the Conference and Rajamantrapravina Mr. C. S. Balasundaram Iyer, Member of Council, delivered the inaugural address. Of the resolutions passed at the Conference, the following were accepted by Government:—

- (i) Decentralisation of powers as regards grant of leave to Amildars.
- (ii) Treating Amildars as Gazetted Officers.
- (iii) Enhancement of powers of Amildars so as to empower them to fine Patels and Shanbhogs up to a limit of Rs. 5.
- (iv) Abolition of A and B lists.
- (v) Supply of furniture to Taluk Offices.
- (vi) Enhancement of powers of Amildars and Deputy Amildars in the matter of confirmation of darkhast sales of sites.

(c) Six Revenue Probationers were appointed during the year and they are undergoing training.

(d) Seven Amildars and one Deputy Amildar underwent Survey Training during the year.

(e) The revision of the scales of pay of the officials of the District, Sub-Division and Taluk Offices was sanctioned in its entirety during the year by the Government and out of the 100 officials ordered to be retrenched, as many as 84 hands were retrenched before the close of the year.

(f) Government have appointed a Committee with the Revenue Commissioner as convenor to go into the question of modifying the type design for Taluk Office Buildings.

(g) The construction of Amildar's quarters at Closepet, Davangere and Molakalmuru was completed during the year.

(h) With a view to attract private capital in the construction of official quarters, Government sanctioned certain concessions in their order dated the 28th April 1931.

21. *Material prosperity of the people.*—The seasonal conditions were generally satisfactory throughout the State except in parts of Shimoga and Shikarpur Taluks and of Alur and Kumsi Sub-Taluks. The out-turn of crops was fairly satisfactory. Both skilled and unskilled labour found adequate employment. The wages remained almost the same as in the previous years except for a small decrease in the wages for unskilled labour. This added to the difficulties of the agricultural population in trying to equate costs of production with the prices realised. The prohibition of jattras in the State with a view to check the spread of contagious diseases further deprived the raiyats of a ready market for their cattle and produce.

The weaving centres at Badanwal, Kabbhalli and Gundlupet did good work during the year. The Thumbadi and Monkonahalli Tank projects in the Tumkur District, the Anjanapur project in Shimoga District, the Irwin Canal Works, the Spinning Centres at Badanwal and other places and the Cauveri bridge construction at Belakvadi, the Kemmangundi Mines and the fuel cutting operations connected with the Bhadravati Iron Works afforded employment to a large number of coolies both from within the State and outside.

Public Health was fairly satisfactory except for the prevalence of epidemics such as plague, cholera and small-pox. The total mortality from these epidemics was 5,139, 3,977 and 1,112 respectively, as against 8,722, 240 and 1,263 in the previous year.

The total number of deaths of cattle from all causes was 75,000 as against 76,482 in the previous year.

Bus and lorry facilities for transport are becoming increasingly popular and are exercising a great influence on the agricultural population. Government note with satisfaction that non-official bodies and Associations are contributing in no small measure towards the amelioration of the conditions of the rural population.

Government realise that the work of the District Officers is becoming increasingly arduous and the sphere of their activities is widening, and are glad to note that the spirit of the service is equal to the occasion.

Government desire to conclude this review with an expression of appreciation of the generally efficient manner in which the administration of the Department has been conducted under the guidance of the Revenue Commissioner Mr. S. P. Rajagopalachari.

B. T. KESAVA IYENGAR,
*Secretary to Government,
Development Department.*

Mr. M. A. Srinivasan's Report on the conditions of labour in the Kolar Gold Fields.

READ—

Government Order No. 4367-76—C. B. 171-29-1, dated the 20th May 1930, placing Mr. M. A. Srinivasan, Assistant Commissioner on Special Duty, to study and report on labour conditions on the Kolar Gold Fields.

2. Letter No. C. C. 7-30, dated the 7th June 1931, from the Deputy Commissioner, Kolar District, forwarding the report of Mr. Srinivasan together with the views of the Mining authorities on the suggestions and recommendations made in it.

No. D. 5192-200—I. & C. 369-30-9, DATED BANGALORE 20TH APRIL 1932.

After the labour strike on the Kolar Gold Fields which occurred in the early part of 1930, Government considered it desirable to have a detailed enquiry made into the social and economic conditions of the workmen employed in the Mining Industry in that area, and Mr. M. A. Srinivasan, Assistant Commissioner, was accordingly placed on special duty to make a study of the said conditions and submit a report. The report submitted by him was placed on the table at the last Session of the Legislative Council held in December 1931. A copy of the report was furnished to the Mining Authorities and their views on the recommendations made in it and the action taken by them in respect of many of them have also been ascertained.

2. The various suggestions made in the report and the action already taken and yet to be taken are indicated in the appendix to this order. The Heads of Departments concerned and the Deputy Commissioner, Kolar District, are requested to take steps for the settlement of points still to be dealt with.

Government are pleased to place on record their appreciation of the thoroughness with which Mr. Srinivasan conducted the investigation and of the valuable report submitted by him. The thanks of Government are due to the Mining Authorities for affording all facilities to the Special Officer in studying the labour conditions obtaining on the Kolar Gold Fields and for the sympathetic manner in which his suggestions have been considered by them.

B. T. KESAVA IYENGAR,
*Secretary to Government,
Development Department.*